

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the present application.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner has asserted that the "separation area" in each of the independent claims is not clear, because it is not clear how one would distinguish such a separation area from the two regions being separated. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 features in combination a silicon substrate of a first conductive type, with a second conductive type impurity region and a first conductive type impurity region on the surface of the semiconductor substrate. The first and second conductive type impurity regions are separated from each other by a separation region.

Although not necessarily limited thereto, the separation area of claim 1 may be interpreted as corresponding to the area of N-type silicon well region 11 between impurity diffused regions 12 and 13, as illustrated in Figs. 1A and 1B of the present application.

Applicant respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill, considering the claims in light of the description in the specification (and not in a vacuum), would consider claim 1 as definite. Particularly, first and second conductive type impurity regions are formed in a substrate, as separate from each other. That is, one of ordinary skill would readily

understand that the second conductive type impurity region is recognizably separate from the first conductive type substrate as having different conductive type. One of ordinary skill would also recognize that the separation region would be the silicon substrate of first conductive type that is featured in the claims and illustrated as a recognizable area other than the impurity regions.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 9 and 11 are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for at least the above reasons, and that further amendment of the claims would unnecessarily narrow claim scope. Applicants also respectfully submit that claims 3, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12-19 are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for at least somewhat similar reasons as noted above.

Conclusion

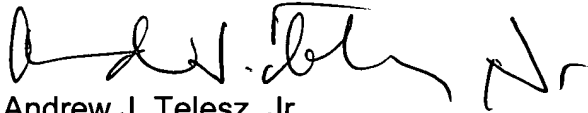
The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the corresponding rejection, and to pass the claims of the present application to issue, for at least the above reasons.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (571) 283-0720 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE FRANCOS & WHITT, P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew J. Telesz, Jr.", followed by a stylized flourish or mark.

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